

HOUSE RESOLUTION 128
By Langster

A RESOLUTION To recognize Jim Travis, political correspondent
for WSMV-TV, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding media reporters and correspondents who during their professional careers have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Jim Travis is one such estimable person who has served with probity for over 20 years with WSMV-TV, covering the state legislature and the local, state and national political scenes; and

WHEREAS, Jim was born in Urbana, Illinois and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma; 41 years ago he began his broadcasting career as a University of Tulsa student at the campus radio station; after a tour of duty in the military he worked at a variety of radio and television stations in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Mr. Travis made his way to Nashville, working as a reporter and anchor at what was then Channel 8, but which, after a frequency swap, became Channel 2; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Jim joined WSMV-TV Channel 4 and proceeded to carve a niche for himself as one of the most informed and accurate political commentators in Nashville and the state of Tennessee; his abilities garnered for him the George Foster Peabody Award (often

called the Pulitzer Prize of broadcasting) for a documentary that he produced on the use of deadly force; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Travis's Nashville career has encompassed his coverage of the 1984, 1988, 1992 and 2000 Democratic Conventions, following Al Gore across the country during his 1988 and 1992 presidential and vice-presidential campaigns, the 1992 presidential inauguration, and coverage of every Tennessee Governor since Ray Blanton, most of the gubernatorial inaugurations, and innumerable debates involving the United States Congress, the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Governorship and the Presidency of the United States; and

WHEREAS, For 30 years, Jim has covered the political figures of the city of Nashville and the state of Tennessee and has come to know all of them at their best and worst; throughout his career he has skillfully navigated through political minefields, carefully scrutinized political hot potatoes, and consistently provided lucid, objective and accurate coverage of the political life of Tennessee and the Capitol Hill scene; and

WHEREAS, The more than 10,000 individual stories reported by Mr. Travis have illuminated for his viewers the inner workings of government, significantly contributing to their ability to make informed assessment of, and decisions about, their elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, On Friday, May 25, 2001, Jim will retire from political reporting to devote more time to other pursuits at his home in rural Hickman County; he plans to enjoy his love of bluegrass, play the piano, guitar and banjo, engage in amateur radio and indulge in his computer skills; and

WHEREAS, Jim exemplifies the professional excellence and ethical standards of a great media journalist; he will be missed by his many viewers and the members of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his exemplary career, Mr. Travis has consistently demonstrated a high degree of professional ethics, fairness, accuracy and clarity in reporting, winning the confidence, respect and admiration of his professional peers, viewers and public figures alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to Jim Travis our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.